



**Prayer for the Maryland State Senate
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
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"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears; thou who has brought us thus far along the way. Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light - keep us forever in thy path we pray" (James Weldon Johnson).

O God, you see all and know all – and amidst the various and sundry vicissitudes of life, we are mindful that you are in control of all that is and is to be. We pause to thank you for your grace and mercy toward us. We are a people of divergent perspectives, with a diversity of hopes and dreams and visions. But we come before you acknowledging the commonality that all persons share in you, the creator of the universe.

O God, we thank you for this great state, Maryland. We take this opportunity to offer prayers for the state, nation and world. We pray for the people of every city and county in Maryland. We pray that you will bless every home and every community - every school and every place where your people gather for work and leisure.

We pray for the continued safety of students, teachers and administrators in every school across Maryland. We continue to pray for first responders – nurses, doctors, police officers, firefighters and paramedics who protect and care for us in times of crisis such as this.

O God, today we pray especially for the students, faculty, and administrators at Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. And we pray for Historically Black Colleges and Universities facing threats of terror across the nation. O God, we are reminded that terror anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere.

Bless those persons who are older and those who are younger. We pray for peace and safety for all of us who live and move throughout every community across the state, and we pray likewise for communities like ours around the nation and world.

Lord God, we pray especially for your blessings upon those persons who bear the burdens of want and disparity among us - whether it be for lack of food or shelter, inadequate healthcare or inadequate education.

We ask your blessings upon those who serve and lead the state of Maryland in elective and appointive office, and those who will do so in the future. O God, bless them with a portion of your wisdom, patience, integrity, justice and compassion.

“Now dot thy still dews of quietness; let all of our strivings cease; take now from our souls the strain and the stress; and let our ordered lives confess; the beauty of your peace”

(Robert Greenleaf Whittier). Amen.